

Applicants : Troy A. Recknagel et al
Serial No. : 09/854,210
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REMARKS:

Reconsideration of the application as amended is requested.

Applicants request a three month extension of time to respond to the outstanding Office action, and a separate petition to this effect is enclosed.

The Examiner's additional remarks have been received and carefully considered.

Pending claims 1-20 have been cancelled without prejudice, and new claims 21-40 have been added.

With respect to the election/restriction requirement previously entered by the Examiner, Applicants assert that all new claims read on the embodiment illustrated in Fig. 10, as well as related Fig. 11.

With respect to the Examiner's comments concerning the Information Disclosure Statement of record, it is Applicants' understanding that all information has been considered by the Examiner, even though the PTO-1449 forms do not identify the date by month and year in the form "MM/YYYY". In the event the Examiner requires new PTO-1449 forms in this format, Applicants will submit the same.

In response to the Examiner's objection to the drawings, as well as the Examiner's related objection to the specification under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (first paragraph), and associated rejection of claims 1-20 under 35 U.S.C. § 112 (second paragraph), Applicants

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believe that the rejected claims are in full compliance with all requirements of 35 U.S.C.

§ 112, and are patentable over the references of record. However, in view of the prolonged pendency of this application, new claims are submitted herewith which Applicants believe avoid those issues raised by the Examiner. More specifically, the “integrally mounted” phrase discussed by the Examiner, as well as the other objections noted, have been avoided in the new claims submitted herewith. Applicants assert that new claims 21-40 are fully supported by the specification as filed, and do not contain any new matter. Furthermore, each of the claim elements set forth in the new claims proffered is illustrated in the drawings as originally filed. Applicants reserve the right to pursue the cancelled claims, as well as the withdrawn claims, and otherwise seek additional patent protection on the disclosed invention in a continuing application.

Prior claims 1, 2, 4-11, 12-18 and 20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as clearly anticipated by the Ditonto Patent 5,845,587. The Examiner takes the position that the Ditonto reference shows a table 14 with an aperture 82 and unit 10, 18, 20 mounted on a pedestal 52 at one end of the table, and furthermore that the Ditonto reference shows a key pad attached to the display of the unit. While Applicants traverse these rejections, for those reasons set forth in detail below, Applicants assert that the new claims submitted herewith are clearly not anticipated or rendered obvious by the Ditonto reference, or any of the other references of record.

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New independent claim 21 recites a table and scoring unit assembly, comprising a table having opposite sides and a top with a circular aperture positioned adjacent to one end of the top. Claim 1 further recites a scoring unit having a display screen, and a base received in the circular aperture of the top, and rotatably supported by the assembly to permit the scoring unit to be rotated with respect to the table about a generally vertical axis for viewing the display screen from both sides of the table.

While the Ditonto reference does disclose a table 14 having an aperture 82 in the top, the aperture 82 of Ditonto is elongate, not circular in shape. Furthermore, although the monitor disclosed in the Ditonto patent is supported on a monitor supporting surface 18, the surface 18 of Ditonto is square in shape and is not received in the elongate aperture 82 in table top 14. Consequently, even when the Ditonto monitor is lowered to its lowermost position as shown in Fig. 2, the monitor supporting surface 18 is disposed wholly above the upper surface of top 14. Consequently, the Ditonto unit has a vertically stacked appearance with respect to top 14 and monitor supporting surface 18, which is quite distinct from the one-piece integrated look of Applicants' assembly, wherein the scoring unit base is received in a circular aperture at one end of the top. Applicants therefore believe that claim 21, and claims 22-33 which depend therefrom, are clearly patentably over the Ditonto reference.

With respect to dependent claims 22-33, the same add additional features and structures which serve to further distinguish Applicants' invention over the references of

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record. For example, the Ditonto unit does not contemplate seating on opposite sides of top 14, and therefore does not appreciate the need for the ability to rotate the monitor about a generally vertical axis to an extent necessary to view the display screen from both sides of the table. Rather, in the Ditonto unit, the monitor is designed to be viewed from the front edge of the top 14. Also, the Ditonto patent does not teach or suggest a support column to rotatably mount the scoring unit, a pedestal base to support the top, or attached seating.

The remaining references of record have been carefully examined, and none teach or suggest those features noted above as lacking in the Ditonto patent.

New independent claim 34 recites a table having opposite sides and a top with a circular aperture positioned adjacent to one side of the top. Claim 34 further recites a scoring unit having a display screen, and a base received in the circular aperture of the top, as well as means for rotatably supporting the base on the upper portion of the support column to permit the scoring unit to be rotated with respect to the table about a generally vertical axis for viewing the display screen from both sides of the table.

Applicants assert that new independent claim 34 distinguishes over the Ditonto patent not only for those reasons set forth above in support of claim 21, but also because of the recited support column, which is lacking in the Ditonto reference. New claims 35-40 depend directly or indirectly from new independent claim 34, and are therefore believed to be patentable over the references of record for those reasons set forth above.

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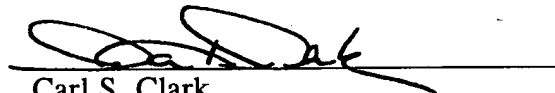
CONCLUSIONS:

Applicants submit that the new claims submitted herewith are fully supported by the application as filed, and are sufficiently definite under 35 U.S.C. § 112 so as to reasonably apprise those skilled in the art as to their scope. Applicants further submit that the references of record do not teach or in any way suggest the unique table and scoring unit assembly set forth in the pending claims. Applicants' invention solves problems and inconveniences experienced in the prior art, thereby representing a significant advancement in the art. It is therefore respectfully submitted that claims 21-40 inclusive should be allowed, since the references, taken singularly or in any combination, do not teach the unique table and scoring unit assembly set forth herein. A notice to this effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this correspondence, and all identified enclosures and attachments are being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on

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Carl S. Clark

CSC/jkrp
Enclosures